

Effective September 1, 2015.

**RESUMING A CRIMINAL CASE AFTER A DEFENDANT IS
DETERMINED TO BE COMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL**

CHAPTER 994

H.B. No. 211

AN ACT

relating to resuming a criminal case after a defendant is determined to be competent to stand trial.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article 46B.079(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(c) When the head of the facility or outpatient treatment program provider gives notice to the court under Subsection (a) or (b), the head of the facility or outpatient treatment program provider also shall file a final report with the court stating the reason for the proposed discharge under this chapter and including a list of the types and dosages of medications prescribed for the defendant while the defendant was in the facility or participating in the outpatient treatment program. To enable any objection to the findings of the report to be made in a timely manner under Article 46B.084(a-1) [46B.084(a)], the court shall provide copies of the report to the attorney representing the defendant and the attorney representing the state.

SECTION 2. Article 46B.084, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (d-1) to read as follows:

(a)(1) *Not later than the next business day following the return of a defendant to the court, the court shall notify the attorney representing the state and the attorney for the defendant regarding the return. Within three business days of the date that notice is received under this subsection or, on a showing of good cause, a later date specified by the court, the attorney for the defendant shall meet and confer with the defendant to evaluate whether there is any suggestion that the defendant has not yet regained competency.*

(2) *Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with a population of less than one million or in a county with a population of four million or more, as soon as practicable following the date of the defendant's return to the court, the court shall provide the notice required by that subdivision to the attorney representing the state and the attorney for the defendant, and the attorney for the defendant shall meet and confer with the defendant as soon as practicable after the date of receipt of that notice.*

(a-1)(1) *Following the defendant's [On the] return [of a defendant] to the court, the court shall make a determination with regard to the defendant's competency to stand trial. The court may make the determination based on the report filed under Article 46B.079(c) and on other medical information or personal history information relating to the defendant. A party may object in writing or in open court to the findings of the report not later than the 15th day after the date on which the court received notification under Article 46B.079. The court shall make the determination not later than the 20th day after the date on which the court received notification under Article 46B.079, or not later than the fifth day after the date of the defendant's return to court, whichever occurs first, regardless of whether a party objects to the report as described by this subsection and the issue is set for hearing under Subsection (b).*

(2) *Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with a population of less than one million or in a county with a population of four million or more, the court shall make the determination described by that subdivision not later than the 20th day after the date on which the court received notification under Article 46B.079, regardless of whether a party objects to the report as described by that subdivision and the issue is set for a hearing under Subsection (b).*

(b) If a party objects under Subsection (a-1) ~~[(a)]~~, the issue shall be set for a hearing. The hearing is before the court, except that on motion by the defendant, the defense counsel, the prosecuting attorney, or the court, the hearing shall be held before a jury.

(d)(1) If the defendant is found competent to stand trial, *on the court's own motion* criminal proceedings in the case against the defendant shall ~~[may]~~ be resumed *not later than the 14th day after the date of the court's determination under this article that the defendant's competency has been restored.*

(2) *Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with a population of less than one million or in a county with a population of four million or more, on the court's own motion criminal proceedings in the case against the defendant shall be resumed as soon as practicable after the date of the court's determination under this article that the defendant's competency has been restored.*

(d-1) *This article does not require the criminal case to be finally resolved within any specific period.*

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a proceeding under Chapter 46B, Code of Criminal Procedure, that commences on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of when the defendant may have committed the underlying offense for which the defendant became subject to the proceeding.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 15, 2015: Yeas 123, Nays 3, 3 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 211 on May 29, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective June 19, 2015.

SEALING OF CERTAIN JUVENILE RECORDS

CHAPTER 995

H.B. No. 263

AN ACT

relating to the sealing of certain juvenile records.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Sections 58.003(a), (e), (o), and (p), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsections (b), ~~[and]~~ (c), *and (e), the juvenile court shall order the sealing of the records in the case [on the application]* of a person who has been found to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, or a person taken into custody to determine whether the person engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, ~~[on the juvenile court's own motion the court shall order the sealing of the records in the case]~~ if ~~[the court finds that]~~:

(1) two years have elapsed since final discharge of the person or since the last official action in the person's case if there was no adjudication; and

(2) since the time specified in Subdivision (1), the person has not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or found to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision and no proceeding is pending seeking conviction or adjudication.